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A2
penetrating the human skin and achieving a venous access port;
extending the steerable applicator (32) from a maneuvering
device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the
femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to
penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium and;
arranging the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) with a
manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected positions
(26; 28).

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15. (amended) A means according to claim 11,
wherein the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and
posterior (10) leaflet bases is adjustable by means of varying
the length of said stabilizing element (14).

18. (amended) A means according to claim 11,
wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a rod or
wire.

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19. (amended) A means according to claim 12,
wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a number
of rods or wires.

20. (amended) A means according to claim 13,
wherein the stabilizing element (14) is a structure comprising
a number of rods or wires.

21. (amended) A means according to claim 14,
wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a strip
or band.

22. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a number of strips or bands.

23. (amended) A means according to claim 21, wherein each strip or band is net-formed.

24. (amended) A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of each structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a ring.

25. (amended) A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of each structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a circular disc.

26. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein said steerable applicator (32) (catheter) is encased in an inserting device (guidance sheath) for penetrating the human skin to achieve a venous access port and extended, from a maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium, the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) being arrangable with a manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected positions (26; 28).

Add the following new claims:

--29. (new) A method according to claim 2, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

--30. (new) A method according to claim 3, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

--31. (new) A method according to claim 4, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

--32. (new) A method according to claim 2, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

--33. (new) A method according to claim 3, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

--34. (new) A method according to claim 4, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).